

## Crab Orchard Wilderness Quest

### Quest Description:

Welcome explorers to the Crab Orchard Wilderness Quest! This wilderness area encompasses over 4,000 acres of the southern most portion of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, which includes the southern arms of Little Grassy and Devils Kitchen Lakes.

The area you will be exploring is located along Devils Kitchen Lake, an area rich with history and folklore. As early as the 1800's settlers from Tennessee and Kentucky began to inhabit the area bringing with them stories and traditions. In fact, the name Devils Kitchen is said to have come from the superstitions of the hills and hollows of the Appalachian Mountains. While some are still visible today, prior to becoming a reservoir, rocky cliffs and overhangs were abundant in this area, providing settlers with ideal spots for shelter. These rock overhangs were stained black from the smoke of fires that were built beneath them. In the evening, the fire and smoke looked like a kitchen. At night, the only thing travelers could see were the fires burning bright. The kitchen-like area, the fire, and the rising smoke created a scary *Devils Kitchen*, especially on a moonlit night.

This Wilderness Quest will lead you to one of the lakes many rocky outcrops. Along the way keep this history in mind, and try to imagine what it must have been like for those settlers centuries ago, exploring this beautiful area. Also listen closely to the birds and insects, the wind moving through the trees and the sounds of the earth underfoot. As you find the area located in the picture, take a moment to rest and record some details of what you may see, hear or smell. After all, that's what wilderness areas provide; an opportunity to get away from our fast-paced lives, and enjoy the tranquility and subtle gifts that nature provides.

Follow the trail markers to the designated ending point, snap a picture of the location, and return with it to the Visitor Center to receive a free Crab Orchard Wilderness collector's pin. Have fun and be safe!

### In Case of Emergency:

**Nearest Hospital:**  
Memorial Hospital of Carbondale  
405 W. Jackson St.  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
(618) 549-0721



**Trail Name:** Grapevine Trail via River to River Trail access.

**Trail Difficulty:** Moderate

**Trail Length:** 2.4 miles total ("out and back trail")

**Travel Time:** 1 1/2 hours

**Trail Type:** Unpaved foot trail

**Best Season:** Year round, spring can be very muddy

**Possible Hazards:** Ice on bluffs near lake shore, exposed or loose rocks, exposed tree roots, poison ivy.

### **Wilderness Ethics:**

Plan ahead and prepare for your trip.

Pack It In, Pack It Out.

Leave what you find.

Travel on durable surfaces.

Respect wildlife and other visitors.

### **How to access the trail head:**

**From Visitor Center:** Head south on Route 148 for 4.7 miles. Make a right turn heading west onto Grassy Rd. for 4.3 miles. At the junction of Spillway Rd, turn left continuing on Grassy Rd. for 1.5 miles. Then turn left onto Rocky Comfort Rd. and continue on for 2 miles until the road splits, taking the left fork onto Devils Kitchen Rd. After 0.8 miles, make a right onto "Line 9" for the parking area and trail head.

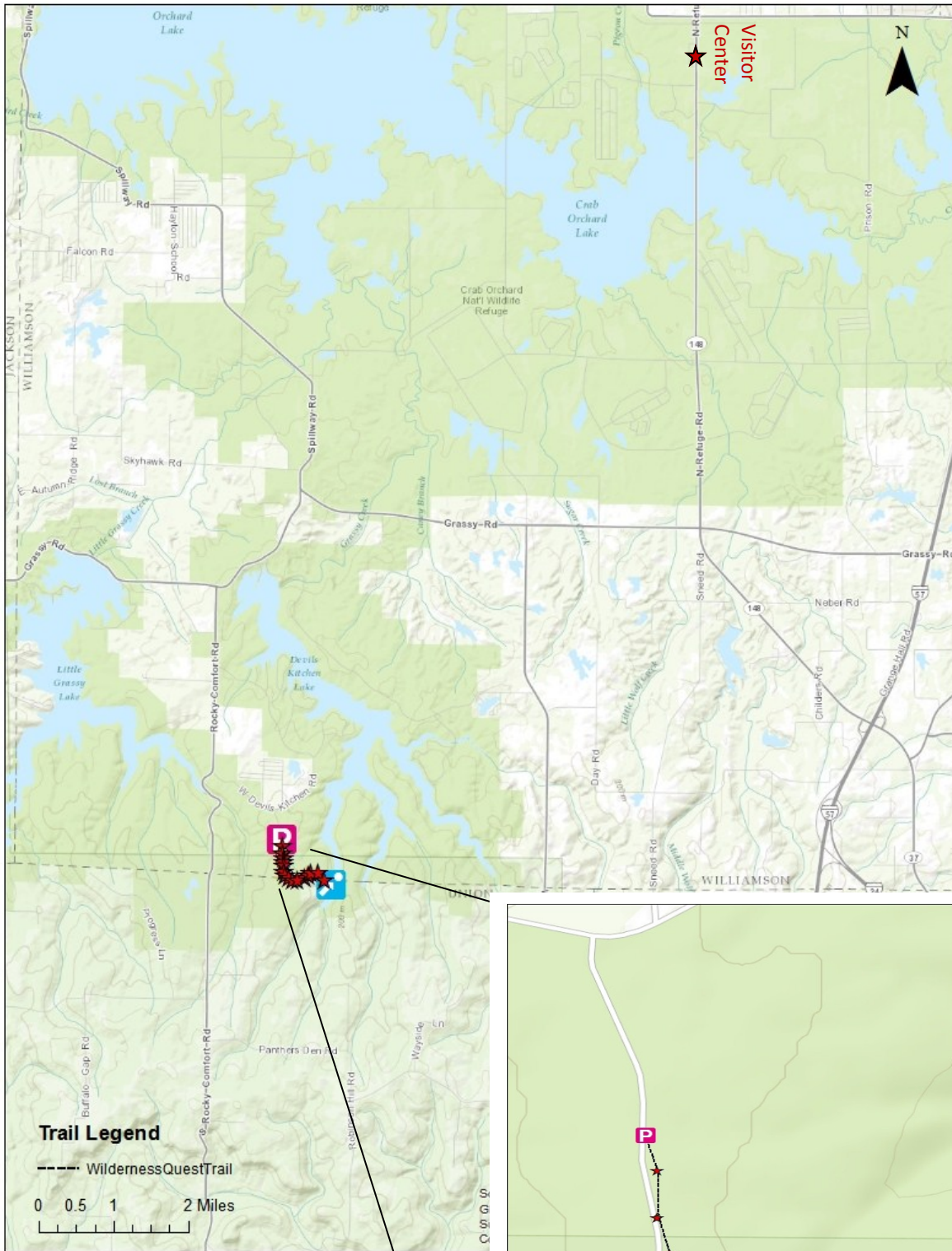
### **Supplies Needed:**

- \* Map
- \* Compass
- \* Water
- \* Pencil
- \* Paper or journal

### **For more information contact:**

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge  
Visitor Center  
8588 Rt. 148  
Marion, IL 62959  
(618) 997-3344 Ext. 1





## Grapevine Trail

